

## **Requirements for Importation of Dogs and Cats into New Jersey**

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Dogs imported into New Jersey are required to be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI or health certificate) issued by a licensed veterinarian in the country or state of origin within 30 days of travel, pursuant to New Jersey Administrative Code (N.J.A.C.) 8:23-1.1 (full text below). Although rabies vaccination is not required for importation into the State, New Jersey law requires all dogs 7 months of age or older to be licensed by the municipality where they are housed within 10 days of arrival. Current rabies vaccination is a prerequisite for licensure.

There are no specific requirements for importing cats into the State, but many New Jersey municipalities have ordinances requiring cat licensure and rabies vaccination. Since cats are the domestic animal most frequently infected with rabies in the State, rabies vaccination is strongly recommended for all cats, including cats kept exclusively indoors. An indoor cat may be exposed to rabies if a bat enters the home or if the cat escapes the house and is bitten.

Proof of current rabies vaccination is required for entry of dogs into the United States (U.S.) from other countries. Dogs that are too young for vaccination are allowed entry but will be required to be vaccinated when they reach 3 months of age and then be confined at the owner's residence for 30 days from the date of vaccination. There are no specific requirements for importation of cats into the U.S. Dogs and cats that appear to be ill upon arrival at the port of entry will be referred to a veterinarian and treated at the owner's expense.

Most airlines will require a CVI to accompany a dog or cat on a flight.

### **N.J.A.C. 8:23-1.1 Importation of dogs; certification requirements**

Dogs shall not be brought into this state excepting when in transit or for breeding, laboratory, or exhibition purposes unless accompanied by a health certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian of the state or nation of the dog's origin indicating that the dog is free from rabies and other communicable disease and has not recently been exposed to any such disease. This certificate shall also state the breed, sex, age, point of origin, point of destination, the name and post office address of the consignee or owner and the consignor or seller and if the dog has been vaccinated, type and date of vaccination.

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